

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BELGIAN MEDIA REACTION TO KISSINGER NOMINATION

1. BELGIAN MEDIA REACT FAVORABLY TO KISSINGER'S NOMINATION
AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

2. INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC LA LIBRE BELGIQUE
COMMENTS THAT KISSINGER "WILL BRING NEW 'VITALITY' TO AMERICAN
DIPLOMACY". PAPER ADDS: " IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT MR
KISSINGER, WHO NEVER CONCEALED HIS DISTRUST TOWARDS ENORMOUS
BUREAUCRACY OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WILL GRADUALLY MAKE
CHANGES IN STRUCTURE OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY, IN ORDER TO GIVE
IT MORE STAMINA".

2. IMPORTANT INDEPENDENT LE SOIR THINKS THAT "WHAT WILL
CHANGE IS MANNER, SINCE NOW THAT HE HAS TITLE OF MINISTER,
GREY EMINENCE WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO ENJOY CHARMS OF
MYSTERY TO DONDUCT HIS NEGOTIATIONS. SECRET DIPLOMACY WILL
PROBABLY BE REPLACED BY MORE OPEN METHODS. THIS WILL PROBABLY
REDUCE IMPACT OF SURPRISE BUT CONGRESS COULD PERHAPS RETURN
THAT WAY TO BETTER FEELINGS TOWARDS NIXON ADMINISTRATION".

3. FOR INFLUENTIAL CATHOLIC DE STANDDAARD KISSINGER'S REMARK
THAT ERA OF DIPLOMACY BY SECRET AIRPLANE TRIPS HAS ENDED "WILL
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PROBABLY HAVE MET WITH APPROVAL IN CONGRESS WHICH BEGAN TO FEEL

INCREASINGLY POWERLESS DURING PAST FEW YEARS. FACT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER CAN BE CALLED TO ACCOUNT... HAS AROUSED HOPES THAT CONGRESS WILL AGAIN RECEIVE BIGGER SAY IN DECIDING FOREIGN POLICY. STATE DEPARTMENT, TOO, WILL BE HAPPY TO BE AGAIN INVOLVED IN DECISION MAKING PROCESS AFTER HAVING BEEN SHUT UP FOR FOUR YEARS..."

4. LABOR CATHOLIC LA CITE WONDERS: " WILL HE STILL RUN SO FAST?", AND WRITES: " ONE THING IS IN ANY CASE LIKELY: A NEW STYLE, MORE VIVACIOUS AND DIRECT, WILL BE GIVEN BY THIS ONLY GREAT SCHOLAR OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TO AMERICAN DIPLOMACY...", AND CATHOLIC VERS L'AVENIR COMMENTS THAT "NO ONE IS MORE QUALIFIED TO HOLD THAT POSITION (THAN KISSINGER), PROBABLY THE GREATEST DIPLOMAT OF OUR TIMES, THE TALLEYRAND OR METTERNICH OF THE 20TH CENTURY".

5. CATHOLIC LE RAPPEL OBSERVES THAT "A CERTAIN AMBIGUITY THAT FOOLED NO ONE BUT WHICH DISTURBED IN DAILY LIFE THE COHESION OF POWER HAD DISAPPEARED". SIMILARLY SOCIALIST VOLKSGAZET WRITES THAT " FOR OUTSIDE WORLD AT LEAST SITUATION BECOMES CLEARER. ONE WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO WONDER WHETHER THERE WAS SECOND FOREIGN POLICY IN U.S., OTHER THAN KISSINGER'S ONE. BUT NEW SECRETARY REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS, NOW UNDER HIS DIRECT LEADERSHIP, WILL RECEIVE THE 'EGARDS' HE HAS DENIED THEM FOR YEARS. KISSINGER HAS NEVER EVIDENCED HIGH OPINION OF THEIR METHODS AND SKILLS..."

6. WIDELY READ CATHOLIC GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN DESCRIBES KISSINGER AS "MOST BRILLIANT AND SUCCESSFUL FIGURE IN TEAM OF ' MODERN POLITICAL STRATEGISTS'... WHO HAVE CAUSED REVOLUTION IN STRATEGIC THINKING OF OUR TIME AND HAVE MARKED U.S. FOREIGN POLICY WITH THEIR IMPRINT".

7. CATHOLIC DE NIEUWE GIDS SAYS THAT "KISSINGER BECOMES WHAT HE WAS", ADDS THAT "ONE IS NOW WAITING FOR MOMENT WHEN HENRY KISSINGER WILL TURN UP IN HAVANA AND CAIRO". CATHOLIC BELANG VAN LIMBURG EXPECTS NO CHANGE IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY EXCEPT PERHAPS IN MIDDLE EAST "WHICH IS QUESTION MARK. IT IS ONLY FIELD WHERE ROGERS INTERVENED PERSONALLY AND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HELPED LAY BASIS FOR... TRUCE KISSINGER WILL ACT VERY PRUDENT BECAUSE OF HIS JEWISH ORIGIN... WE BELIEVE HE WILL PREFER TO

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WORK THROUGH THE MODERATE TREND IN THE ARAB CAMP. AN ACTIVE ROLE OF THE U.S IN ANY CASE IS NOT EXPECTED".

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